

Message Text

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43

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 AEC-11

DODE-00 H-03 OIC-04 OMB-01 ARA-16 DRC-01 /191 W

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R 070904Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4602

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PARIS 28713

GENEVA FOR SALT AND CSCE DELS

E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: MCAP, FR

SUBJECT: LE MONDE ON FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING

1. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE IN NOVEMBER 4-5 EDITION OF LE MONDE, THE ISLANDS OF MURUROA AND FANGATAUFA HAVE BEEN CHOSEN BY THE GOF AS SITES FOR SERIES OF UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR TESTS (UNTS) STARTING IN 1976. UNLIKE FRENCH ATMOSPHERIC TESTS IN SOUTH PACIFIC, WHICH HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN TWO TO FOUR MONTH PERIOD OF THE YEAR, UNTS WILL NOT BE CONSTRAINED TO SIMILAR TIME LIMIT BUT WILL CONTINUE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, ALTERNATING BETWEEN THE TWO SITES.
2. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE GOF HAS DECIDED TO MOVE ITS NUCLEAR TESTING UNDERGROUND FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL REASONS SINCE UNT IS GENERALLY MORE ACCEPTABLE TO INTERNATIONAL OPINION. TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, HOWEVER, ARE LIKELY TO DELAY FIRST UNT UNTIL 1976.
3. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT UNT WILL ATTRACT LESS ATTENTION FROM "PROFESSIONAL INTRUSIONS" (EUPHEMISM FOR TEST MONITORING BY OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS) BECAUSE THE SEISMIC SIGNAL PRODUCED BY THE TEST (ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE ONLY EVIDENCE DETECTABLE BY OUTSIDERS) WILL NOT PROVIDE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT NUCLEAR DEVICE TESTED.
4. COMPANION ARTICLE DISCUSSES IN GENERAL TERMS THE "OBSERVERS" OF PAST FRENCH ATMOSPHERIC TESTS INCLUDING (ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE) THE AMERICAN HELICOPTER CARRIER CORPUS CHRISTI BAY, US KC-135S AND THE UK SHIP SIR PERCIVAL. TEXTS POUCHED TO PM/AE AND EUR/WE.IRWIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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